

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

PICKERING, Charles W. "Chip" Jr (Republican)
Representative, 3rd District, Mississippi
Elected 1996 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Laurel, Mississippi - 10 August 1963

Home: Laurel, Mississippi

Marital Status: Married (Leisha Jane) - 4 children

Religion: Baptist

Education: University of Mississippi, BA, 1986; Baylor University, MBA, 1989

Military: None

Profession: Congressional aide

Political: No previous elected office. Defeated John Eaves, Jr (D) with 61% of the vote in 1996 general election to succeed Rep G.V. Sonny Montgomery (D) who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 72% of the vote and in 2002 with 64%.

Rep Pickering, a former aide to Sen Trent Lott (R-MS), is a conservative who focused during his campaign on values and emphasized his work on agricultural, telecommunications, trade and energy legislation that affected Michigan. Opposes gun control and abortion rights. Supports tax cuts and a balanced budget. Backs strong defense policies and said he will defend veterans, a large constituency in his district. Wants to streamline the federal government and return powers to state and local governments.

In the 105th Congress was appointed to Agriculture, Science and Transportation and Infrastructure Cmtes. Expressed interest in T-38 upgrades, JPATS and its transition at various bases.

In the 106th Congress, was appointed to Commerce Cmte and left Agriculture, Science and Transportation Cmtes. Introduced, with a colleague, H.R. 1347, to provide for a Medicare subvention demonstration project for veterans and to improve the DoD TRICARE Program. Paid tribute to M/Gen William F. Moore, USAF, who was retiring from his position as Dep Dir, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, OUSD(A&T). Attributed the opportunity for Lockheed Martin's Meridian, MS, plant to work on the F-22 to the work ethic of his State's workforce. Made an announcement regarding work on the Air Force JSTARS program to be performed by Raytheon Aerospace at Madison, MS.

Prior to 108th Congress he represented Columbus AFB. Supported sending troops to Iraq. Turned down a \$1 million/year job with a wireless company to stay in the House. Additional: His father, Charles, Sr. who is the former chairman of the MS Republican party, helped revive the Mississippi GOP in recent years. Before going to work for Sen Lott, Rep Pickering was a Bush appointee in the Dept of Agriculture for 2 years. Has done missionary work for the Southern Baptist Church in Hungary. Member, C-130 Modernization Caucus.

AF Bases: Key Field and Allen C. Thompson Field (ANG)

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE

ENERGY AND COMMERCE